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News Release

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West Valley man sentenced on Utah tax evasion charges

A former West Valley man, who absconded from Utah three years ago in the middle of his trial, was sentenced Friday to serve one year in jail on state income tax evasion charges.

Hiram Drane, 46, was sentenced by 3rd District Court Judge Judith Atherton. He was convicted in March 2009 for evading income taxes on more than \$100,000 in wages and several thousand dollars in capital gains on stock sales throughout 2005 and 2006.

He represented himself in the case, but the court issued a warrant for his arrest when he failed to return to court for the afternoon session. Drane was arrested by federal marshals in North Carolina in November 2011 before being extradited to Utah.

Drane was also ordered to pay \$8,611 in restitution to the Utah State Tax Commission in back taxes, penalties and interest. He also must pay \$2,576 for extradition costs.

He was placed on probation for three years and was not given credit for time served since his November arrest. The prison terms for two third degree felonies and a second degree felony were suspended.

“This case shows the seriousness of failing to abide by state tax laws,” said Charlie Roberts, Tax Commission spokesman. “Since all Utah income tax revenues are used in the state’s education system, those who refuse to pay their fair share directly hurt our teachers and children.”

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